AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-28. (Canceled)

Claim 29. (Previously Presented)

A charging apparatus for connecting to a communication apparatus, said communication apparatus performing data communication via a communication channel connected to a computer, said communication channel being used to make the connection between said charging apparatus and said communication apparatus, said communication channel including a communication line for data communication and a power supply line for supplying electric power, and said charging apparatus comprising:

a monitoring circuit for monitoring the electric power level supplied through said power supply line; and

a charging circuit for applying electric power, with which it is supplied through said power supply line from said computer via said communication channel, to a connector of a data processing unit driven by a battery installed in said data processing unit, the data processing unit being formed to have said connector in order to input electric power for charging the battery, and said data processing unit being freely attachable and detachable to said connector of said charging apparatus.

Claims 30-33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Previously Presented)

A method of charging a battery using a charging apparatus connected to a communication apparatus, which is capable of performing data communication via a communication channel connected to a computer, and using said communication channel to make a connection wherein:

said communication channel includes a communication line for data communication and a power supply line for supplying electric power,

said method comprising the steps of:

monitoring, by a monitoring circuit in said charging apparatus, the electric power level supplied through said power supply line;

applying electric power by said charging apparatus, supplied through said power supply line from said computer via said communication channel, to a connector of a data processing unit driven by a battery installed in said data processing unit,

forming the data processing unit to have said connector in order to input electric power for charging the battery, and

charging said battery by the electric power applied.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, wherein the communication channel is a cable in accordance with IEEE 1394.

Claim 36. (Cancelled)

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Claim 37. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, wherein the data processing unit is a digital camera.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, wherein the data processing unit is freely attachable

and detachable to said connector of the charging apparatus.

Claim 39. (Previously Presented)

The charging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the communication channel is a

cable in accordance with IEEE 1394.

Claim 40. (Cancelled)

Claim 41.   (Previously Presented)

The charging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the data processing unit is a

digital camera.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented)

The charging apparatus of claim 29, wherein within the charging apparatus the power

supply capability of said computer is compared with the power consumption by said charging

apparatus, such that said battery will be charged by said charging circuit only if said power supply exceeds a determined maximum power consumption.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented)

The charging apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the charging apparatus senses the power supplying capability of the computer and controls the charging of the battery based on the sensed power.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claim 34, further including sensing, by the charging apparatus, the power supplying capability of the computer, and controlling the charging of the battery based on the sensed power.

Claim 45. (New)

The charging apparatus of claim 29, further including:

a processor that controls apparatus of the charging apparatus;

a memory that stores data associated with the computer; and

a communication controller that controls communication between the processor and computer.

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Claim 46. (New)

The method according to claim 34, further including providing the power level to a

processor in the charging apparatus; and

controlling the level of the electric power provided by said computer based on the

monitored level.

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